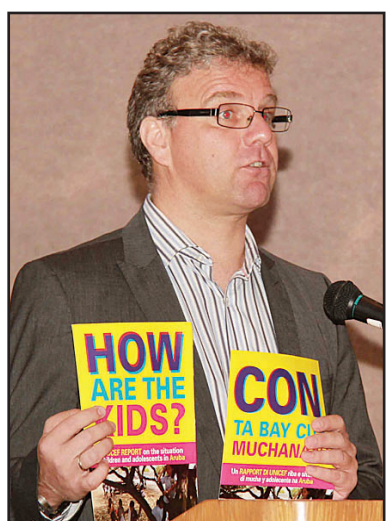




THE MORNING NEWS

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UNICEF report: "The situation of Children and Adolescents on Aruba"



Bastiaan van 't Hoff



Co founders of youth hotline Altagracia Chapman and Dr. Helen van der Waal



Jose Kock of Youth Parliament

In 2009, when Aruba's present government came into office, an in-depth by UNICEF was being conducted in the region to assess the situation of children and adolescents, in com-

pliance with the Committee on Rights of Children, or CRC. The research was carried out by the independent organization Observatorio Social de Ecuador, (OSE.) The newly-elected Minister of Economic & Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, endorsed the continuation of Aruba's participation in the study.

After speaking to thousands of individuals of all ages, from children to social workers and volunteers of NGO's dedicated to addressing the mistreatment of youngsters, while analyzing statistical reports, they were finally ready to present their findings and conclusions.

Mr. Bastiaan van 't Hoff, of the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean office, gave the presentation during a session on Thursday morning, May 16, in the presence of Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar, the Minister of Justice and Education, Arthur Dowers, and the various agencies and NGO's on Aruba involved in the issue of preserving the rights of children. The study covered all the Dutch Caribbean, and the islands of St. Maarten and Curaçao were already informed of their individual studies. A full presentation of the report will take place Holland on May 23. The other Dutch Caribbean islands will also have sessions regarding their results of the study.

Mr. van 't Hoff began by stating "Overall, the situation of children and adolescents in Aruba is good, particularly in an area, (The Caribbean and Latin America) where neglect and abuse of children is a problem. Adequate attention if given, by government and civil society, to their wellbeing. There is universal access to health care and education, while mechanisms are in place for those who are in need of protection. However, there are some issues that require attention by government and all other stakeholders"



Ministers Arthur Dowers and Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar with Bastiaan van 't Hoff

Continued on page 4

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Obama and Erdogan demand Assad step down



US President Barack Obama and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan hold a joint press conference in the Rose Garden of the White House

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan insisted yesterday that Bashar al-Assad must still quit power despite moves to organize peace talks in Syria's bloody civil war.

The leaders met in Washington amid a flurry of shuttle diplomacy between world and regional powers ahead of a planned international conference that Washington and Moscow have proposed to halt the violence.

At a joint White House

news conference, the Turkish and US leaders restated their position, but Obama admitted: "There is no magic formula for dealing with an extraordinarily violent and difficult situation like Syria's."

The talks came a day before another key player, Russian President Vladimir Putin, was set to meet UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and one day after UN members voted to condemn an "escalation" by Assad's forces.

Continued on page 6

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Summary of the monthly bulletin of December 2012:

Aruba money supply rose

ORANJESTAD -- During the month of December 2012, money supply rose by Afl. 87.6 million to Afl. 3,419.2 million, resulting from an Afl. 94.2 million rise in net domestic assets. The growth in the net domestic assets was associated mostly with increases in domestic credit and non-credit related balance sheet items of, respectively, Afl. 71.6 million and Afl. 22.6 million. Domestic credit grew largely as a result of an increase of Afl. 80.4 million in the net liability of the public sector to the banking sector. This was attributed mainly to an Afl. 78.5 million contraction in government deposits related to the repayment of matured bonds and an increase of Afl. 26.8 million in gross claims of the banking sector on the public sector, which were partially offset by a rise in development funds of Afl. 24.9 million, due mainly to a transfer by the Government of Aruba related to its contributions. The surge in the non-credit related balance sheet items was caused by clearing transactions.

On the other hand, claims on the private sector dropped by Afl. 8.8 million (-0.3 per-

cent), reflecting decreases in consumer credit and commercial loans of, respectively, Afl. 11.3 million (-2.1 percent) and Afl. 0.6 million, while housing mortgages picked up by Afl. 3.7 million (+0.4 percent).

The consumer price index (CPI) for December 2012 registered a 3.7 percent decrease, compared to the same month of 2011. The main contributors to this drop were housing, clothing & footwear, household operation, and recreation & culture. Excluding the effect of food and energy (which partly affects the housing and transport components), the core CPI showed a 0.3 percent decrease compared to December 2011, brought about mostly by declines in the index categories of women's clothing, furniture, household textiles, and audio visual equipment. The pace of the 12-month average inflation rate fell to 0.6 percent in December 2012, down from 1.4 percent in November 2012.

In December 2012, the number of stay-over visitors totaled 90,071, which is 11.1 percent (+8,963 visitors) higher than in December 2011.

Continued on page 11

Special honors for Gastronomic great Urbano Perez!



During the past week the Prime Minister of Aruba visited the Pabilon barrio, home of Urbano Perez.

Urbano Perez was singled out by residence of the barrio as deserving of special recognition. Urbano Perez is the father of two boys, grandfather of six and a great grandfather. Urbano inherited the taste of the kitchen from his father who enjoyed cooking. He would invite Urbano to help in the kitchen from a very young age.

Urbano attended St. Aloysius School and later enrolled at John F. Kennedy where he studied welding. To help pay his school fees he worked at Piet Soda Fountain. There he learned from Theo Paalman how to make hamburgers and many of the snacks they prepared. He also learned to make ice cream and yoghurt.

Urbano's first official job in the culinary arts was at recently opened De Olde Molen. Here he learned to prepare Dutch dishes. In 1962 Urbano had the honor of preparing food for Princess Magriet and Princess Irene of the Netherlands during their visit to Aruba.

Urbano's work was so good that he received a scholarship from the government to study at Escuela Hotelero Barranguita in Puerto Rico. Management of De Olde Molen also supported him in that endeavor. He received his diplo-

ma in Puerto Rico in record time and returned to Aruba, then took a job at The Cactus Inn. He later moved on to Trocadero and to Concorde Hotel where he worked as Chef-de-Partie. During his years he earned many prizes for ice sculpture. Later he went to work for Ike Cohen as Souse-

ma in Puerto Rico in record time and returned to Aruba, then took a job at The Cactus Inn. He later moved on to Trocadero and to Concorde Hotel where he worked as Chef-de-Partie. During his years he earned many prizes for ice sculpture. Later he went to work for Ike Cohen as Souse-

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considered one of the first Arubans to put Aruba on the gastronomic map when Aruba was just beginning to move into tourism.

Certainly, Urbano Perez is a well-deserving son of Aruba for his tremendous contribution. Pabien!



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Aruba's Carnival organization, SAC, welcomes a new Carnival Group from MetaCorp



L.-r.: Ryan Maduro, Rosina Napa, Ramoncito Croes, and John Flemming

Though Carnival is conducted for 6 to 10 weeks in the early part of the year, carnivalistas are preoccupied with the festival all year long. On Wednesday, May 15, John Flemming, representing the Stichting Arubaanse Carnaval or SAC, the administrative foundation that organizes and conducts official events, confirmed how pleased they were that a new group has been formed by the Meta Social Club, consisting of the nearly 2000 employees of MetaCorp, and their families.



Massa Grand Parade Male

Croes were joined by John Flemming, who was instrumental in the formation of the new group, and Ryan Maduro for the announcement. Ryan is very well respected as a designer of carnival themes and costumes, and was approached by Mr. Flemming in helping the fledgling carnival group plan a spectacular debut during Carnival 60.

Themes for 2014 include "Happy Bacardi Bats" for the



Massa Grand Parade Female

Meta is Aruba's largest local employers, and many of their staff participate with various carnival groups every year. With the approach of the landmark event of 2014, celebrating 60 years of Aruba's Carnaval, the Meta Social Club could think of no better time to launch their own carnival group. It has been more than five years since Aruba has seen a new group established.

Meta Social Club members Rosina Napa and Ramoncito



Massa Lighting Parade Female

Fakkelt Optocht, or Torch Parade, the inaugural night time parade that is usually conducted the first Saturday in January. A fantastical version of the Bacardi Rum logo and various products of Tropical Bottling, a MetaCorp company, will dominate the costuming.

For the annual Lighting Parade, in San Nicolas and Oranjestad, their theme is "Colors Explosion," based on the many companies and colors of MetaCorp. For the final parade, all the aspects of MetaCorp companies, the Renaissance Resorts, casinos, cinemas, ATCO concrete, Ecotech Ecology Technology, New York Laundry, Renaissance Mall & Marketplace and the convention center, will be represented in beautiful, vibrant costumes, floats and roadpieces. Meta Social Club will also elect a Carnival Queen and Senora Carnival, to compete on their behalf in the national pageant. The new carnival group is also in the midst of negotiations with Banda Duro and Banda Caribbean Punch from Holland to be their musical back up during parades, with well-known carnival performers "Mighty Campo," and "Lord Cachete."

The Meta Social Club welcomes all participants in their new group. They advise interested parties to check their Facebook page for updates and registration.

Rosalie Klein



Massa Lighting Parade Male

Bingo Café gives back to the community!



Recently, Bingo Café handed a check over to Imelda Children's Home Director Natalia Hernandez for the amount of Afls. 1,750. The money was collected during a recent event organized at Bingo. According to a Imeldahof spokesperson, the money will be used for a very nice project; the preservation and conservation of a mural which was painted by the nuns back in 1970. Staff and personnel of Imeldahof Children's Home express their heartfelt gratitude to Café Bingo and especially to staffers Nicole Bijl, Frans de Rooi and Miko v.d. Werk who were the motors behind the event.

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Today is World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

May 17 marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union.

World Telecommunication Day

World Telecommunication Day has been celebrated annually on 17 May since 1969, marking the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. It was instituted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Malaga-Torremolinos in 1973.

World Information Society Day

In November 2005, the World Summit on the Information Society called upon the UN General Assembly to declare 17 May as World Information Society Day to focus on the importance of ICT and the wide range of issues related to the Information Society raised by WSIS. The General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/60/252) in March 2006 stipulating that World Information Society Day shall be celebrated every year on 17 May.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
In November 2006, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, Turkey, decided to celebrate both events on 17 May as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. The updated Resolution 68 invites Member States and Sector Members to celebrate the day annually by organizing

appropriate national programmes with a view to:

- stimulating reflection and exchanges of ideas on the theme adopted by the Council
- debating the various aspects of the theme with all partners in society
- formulating a report reflecting national discussions on the issues underlying the theme, to be fed back to ITU and the rest of its membership

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According to the Report of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration (UNRSC) released by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 1.3 million people die each year in traffic related accidents and another 20-50 million people are injured mainly in developing countries around the world. As a result, Governments and individuals suffer an estimated USD 518 billion in global economic loss. Driver distraction and road-user behaviour, which includes "text messaging" and interfacing with in-vehicle navigation or communication systems while driving, are among the leading contributors to road traffic fatalities and injuries. Road traffic safety is a global concern not only for public health and injury prevention but also to improve efficiencies in traffic management as a means of combating the effects

of climate change.

ITU has been leading worldwide efforts in developing state-of-the-art ICT standards for Intelligent Transport Systems and driver safety that utilize a combination of computers, communications, positioning and automation technologies, including in-car radars for collision avoidance. ITU has also been developing standards for safe user interfaces and communication systems in vehicles as well as optimizing driving performance by eliminating unsafe technology-related distractions while driving.

As the leading specialized agency of the United Nations for information and communication technologies (ICT), ITU looks towards its Members to harness the catalytic role of ICTs in improving road safety and traffic management systems.

WTISD 2013 Call for Action: Worldwide Initiatives

On the occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2013, ITU calls upon all stakeholders (policy makers, regulators, operators and industry) to take practical steps to further national and domestic policies, programmes and/or educational initiatives in the use of ICTs to improve road safety, taking into account the risks associated with the unreasonable use of ICTs and driver distraction, as well as the benefits of ICTs and vehicular safety technologies, in order to improve global road safety.

We invite you to consider organizing programmes in your country to mark WTISD 2013 with a focus on the theme: "ICTs and improving road safety". It would be useful to involve all sections of society to formulate awareness and consensus on the issues underlying the theme.

UNICEF report

Continued from page 1



Social workers and foundation volunteers

He particularly complimented on Aruba on its low infant mortality rate and well organized school and health systems. Issues within the health system are a high rate of teenage pregnancy and childhood obesity, which is being addressed with vigor by Aruba's Minister of Public Health and Sport, Dr. Richard Visser.

Aruba has enacted a compulsory education law, and the study revealed control of quality of education and an effort to integrated migrant children. However, the adolescent drop out rate is disproportionate, and the interaction between schools and parents is limited, as is the access to after-school programs.

The study showed a well-organized child protection system, important progress with legislation dedicated to children's rights and protection, and an extensive involvement of civil society, which is considered crucial. Mr. van 't Hoff made the point that the society must be very open and trained

regarding recognizing a child in danger and reporting to authorities. Many societies, not only those in the Caribbean, have yet to fully face their responsibilities regarding domestic violence and abuse of children, and the important part the community plays in stopping or preventing them. These interfere with the rights of the child to grow and develop to their full potential. He also stated it is important to coordinate efforts among NGO's to best protect children in a concerted manner, and to promote increased involvement of fathers in raising children, an element often lacking in Caribbean societies.

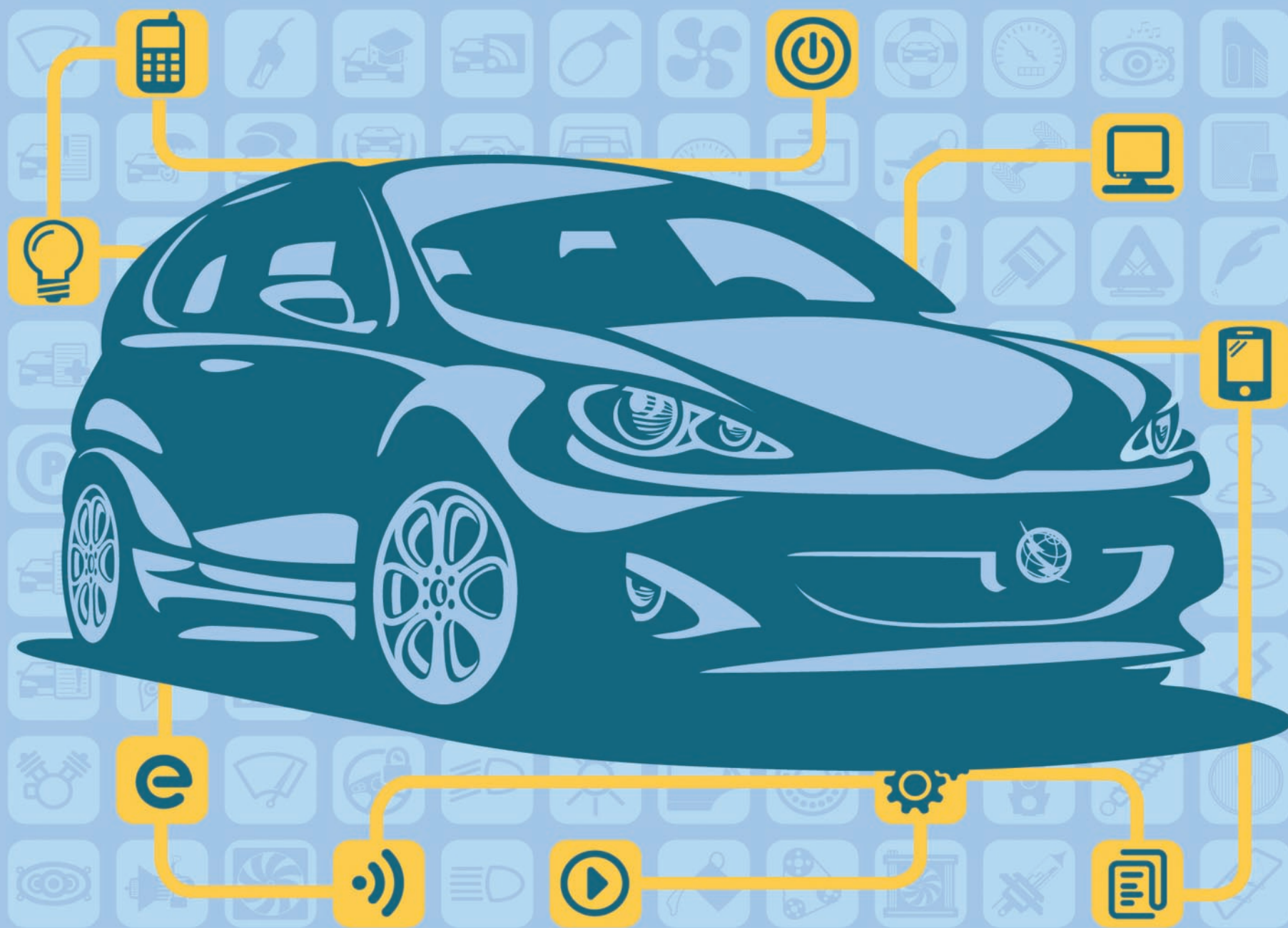
Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar thanked Mr. van 't Hoff for his insights, describing a number of initiatives put in place to address these issues. Wednesday's presentation was only "skimming the surface"

The full report available for study online, in English, at: <http://www.unicef.nl/wat-doet-unicef/koninkrijkskinderen/childdrights/>

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International news

Obama: sex assaults in military harm national security

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama warned yesterday that a spate of sexual assaults in the military endangered US national security and vowed to do everything possible to fix the problem.

Obama promised to act as he met Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, the highest ranking US military officer Army General Martin Dempsey, and the civilian and military bosses of each branch of the US military.

The president said that the US military's strength lay in trust, teamwork and discipline.

"The issue of sexual assault in our armed forces undermines that trust," Obama told reporters after the meeting at the White House.

"So not only is it a crime, not only is it shameful and disgraceful, but it also is going to make and had made the military less effective than it can be.

"And as such, it is dangerous to our national security. So this is not a sideshow... this goes to the heart and to the core of who we are. It's not fixed yet, and that's clear."

US Army Chief of Staff General Ray Odierno meanwhile said the armed forces had failed to tackle sexual violence effectively and a wave of recent incidents was eroding trust throughout the ranks.

In a message sent to army personnel following a series of

damaging revelations about sexual assaults in the military, Odierno said the fight against sexual assault and harassment should be the institution's top priority.

"The Army is failing in its efforts to combat sexual assault and sexual harassment," Odierno said. "It is time we take on the fight against sexual assault and sexual harassment as our primary mission."

Odierno's comments came after it emerged that a soldier who worked in a rape prevention program had been accused of forcing a subordinate into prostitution.

Last week, an Air Force officer in charge of his service's sexual assault prevention office was arrested near the Pentagon for allegedly assaulting a woman.

Odierno said the recent rash of incidents represented a "violation of trust."

Heo called on military leaders "at every level" to establish a "command climate and culture of mutual respect, trust and safety."

"Our profession is built on the bedrock of trust; sexual assault and sexual harassment betray that trust," he said.

Sexual abuse cases in the military are on the rise, according to a Pentagon report, rising to 3,374 in 2012, a six percent increase from the previous year.

Boston suspect wrote note before capture

NEW YORK (AFP) - Boston bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev wrote a note before his capture in which he called the victims "collateral damage" for US action in Afghanistan and Iraq, local media reported yesterday.

"When you attack one Muslim, you attack all Muslims," Tsarnaev also scribbled on the inside wall of the boat where he hid from police during a massive manhunt in the days after the April 15 blasts, according to CBS News.

Citing unnamed sources, CBS News said the note claimed the bombings were payback for US military action in Afghanistan and Iraq and referred to the victims as "collateral damage."

Dzhokhar also said he did not mourn the death of his older brother Tamerlan, killed in a shootout with police, saying he was a martyr, the broadcaster said.

Obama, Erdogan demand ...

Continued from page 1

Jordan, meanwhile, announced that it would host next week the "Friends of Syria," the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Qatar, the United States, Britain, France, Turkey, Germany and Italy.

And even as Obama and Erdogan were meeting, Israeli officials told AFP that John Brennan, director of the US Central Intelligence Agency, had arrived in Israel for talks on the Syrian crisis.

Obama has made strenuous efforts to court the Turkish leader but, while they agree that Assad must be ousted, there are signs of frustration in Ankara at Obama's cautious approach toward the Syrian rebels.

The president has balked at providing arms and ammunition to the guerrillas, fearing they could fall into the hands of extremist elements linked to Al-Qaeda, and is now pinning hopes on the peace conference jointly organized with Russia.

After meeting Erdogan, Obama gave no sign his position has changed. "We both agree that Assad needs to go. He needs to transfer power to a transitional body," he said.

"That is the only way we're going to resolve this crisis. And we're going to keep working for a Syria that is free from Assad's tyranny," he added, vowing to support Turkey in its struggle to cope with a flood of Syrian refugees.

In what was perhaps a sign that Turkey is not yet satisfied with Obama's stance, Erdogan said: "We will continue to discuss this issue in greater detail in our meeting this evening."

But he added: "Let me tell you that ending this bloody process in Syria and meeting the legitimate demands of the people by establishing a new government are two areas where we are in full agreement with the United States."



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Obama says had no prior knowledge of tax abuses

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama said Thursday he had not known about abuses by tax officials who targeted conservative groups until a report into the affair was leaked to the press last week.

"I promise you this. The minute I found out about it, then my focus has been about making sure we get the thing fixed," Obama told reporters.

The president spoke just a day after sacking acting Internal Revenue Service chief Steven Miller over reports that some agents had singled out groups affiliated with the ultra-conservative Tea Party and other right-wing causes.

He also vowed to work with Congress to ensure a full investigation into the affair uncovered by an inspector general's (IG) report, details of which were leaked to the press Friday.

"I can assure you that I certainly did not know anything about the IG report before the IG report had been leaked to the press," Obama told reporters.

"Typically, the IG reports are not supposed to be widely distributed or shared. They

tend to be, you know, a process that everybody's trying to protect the integrity of."

Obama said that the abuses uncovered in the report were "unacceptable" and promised to hold anyone involved accountable.

"We're going to make sure that we identify any structural or management issues to prevent something like this from happening again," he said.

"I'm looking forward to working with Congress to fully investigate what happened, make sure that it doesn't happen again."

As a first step of moving on from the scandal, Obama announced that he had asked Daniel Werfel, currently controller of the Office of Management and Budget, to be the new acting head of the IRS.

Appointing a permanent chief of the agency would have caused a delay in the overhaul of operations, as the post requires Senate confirmation.

Werfel, who has agreed to serve until the end of the fiscal year on September 30, has previously worked in Democratic and Republican administrations.



Cleburne : Beth Poledna, 28, takes a break from cleaning up the destruction that was left by a tornado outside her home May 16, 2013 in Cleburne, Texas. Poledna's family took shelter in their bathroom as the tornado destroyed areas of their home. (AFP)



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International news

Ecuador smashes India-to-US migrant smuggling ring

QUITO (AFP) - A ring that smuggled immigrants from India and Sri Lanka into the United States through Ecuador has been broken up with the arrest of six people, Ecuadoran authorities said yesterday.

Three Indian nationals and two members of Ecuador's immigration police were among the six people arrested in the port city of Guayaquil, where the smuggling network operated, officials said.

"They brought in nationals from India and Sri Lanka, and arranged refuge for them in various hotels," said Guayaquil police chief General Patricio Pazmino.

Deputy Interior Minister Xavier Cordoba said the smugglers charged \$5,000 per person. After entering Ecuador illegally, the migrants would be sent to Central America and from there to the United States.

Police, who said the arrests were made following a two-month investigation, seized

documents, laptop computers and nearly \$100,000 in cash.



AFP photo gives a view of a mask representing deceased Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez which was placed in a corridor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Caracas yesterday.

Dutch head global bid to reform Bangladesh textile sector

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Netherlands is to co-chair a group of donor countries, businesses and civil society groups tackling rampant safety issues in Bangladesh's textile sector, the foreign ministry said yesterday.

The move comes after over 1,100 people died in a factory collapse in Bangladesh in April, prompting top Western retailers and global trade unions to promise to improve shocking factory conditions.

The Netherlands is giving nine million euros (\$13 million) that together with funds from the textile sector will be put to improve "harrowing" work conditions, the foreign ministry said on its website.

"All involved parties -- the textile sector, manufacturers, consumers and governments -- must now take responsibility to break the vicious circle," said Trade and Development Minister Lilianne Ploumen.

"We can't keep pointing the

finger at each other."

The April 24 collapse of the nine-storey Rana Plaza factory complex in Dhaka killed 1,127 people, one of the world's worst industrial disasters.

Bangladesh is the world's second-biggest apparel maker and the 15.5-billion-euro industry, which relies on women workers, accounts for up to 80 percent of exports.

Western retailers rely on cheap labour in the region, where safety standards are often inadequate and critics say many employers ride roughshod over workers' rights.

The Netherlands will represent donor countries in dialogue with the Bangladeshi authorities and trade unions to coordinate and monitor international efforts to improve the plight of garment workers.

Ploumen is in talks with relevant businesses and organi-

sations in the Netherlands to come up with a concrete action plan, with "measurable targets and a clear timeframe", which should be ready by June, the ministry said.

Last month's disaster prompted top retailers to join an initiative by Labour umbrella groups binding retailers to hold independent building and fire safety inspections and to pay for repairs.

Ploumen wants to travel to Bangladesh with a delegation of Dutch textile businesses, trade unions and civil society groups, the ministry added.

She will also discuss the action plan with European Union trade ministers in Brussels.

"We cannot accept that textile workers run enormous safety risks to make our jeans and T-shirts. A low price cannot be at any cost," Ploumen said.

Venezuela running out of toilet paper

CARACAS -- Venezuela is having a serious humanitarian crisis, the entire country is running out of toilet paper. Toilet paper is just one of the basic goods and foodstuffs that have been disappearing from store shelves over the past few months, as the government and private companies blame each other for the scarcity.

Venezuela's socialist government has promised to import 50 million rolls of toilet paper and 760,000 pounds of food to make sure all citizens can eat and poop in comfort once more.

"The revolution will bring the country the equivalent of 50 million rolls of toilet paper," the country's commerce minister said. "We are going to saturate the market so that our people calm down."

Economists say Venezuela's shortages stem from price controls meant to make basic goods available to the poorest parts of society and the government's controls on foreign currency.

President Nicolas Maduro, who was selected by the dying Hugo Chavez to carry on his "Bolivarian revolution," claims that anti-government forces, including the private sector, are causing the shortages in an effort to destabilize the country.



MEXICO CITY : AFP photo shows activists of the global environmental watchdog Greenpeace hanging from ropes from the "Estela de Luz" monument, before hanging a sign reading "No OGM" (GMO, Genetically modified organism) in Mexico city, on May 16, 2013. The demonstration is against the attempt of some transnational companies to sow transgenic corn in the country. Mexico has 59 strains of native corn. Corn is the most important staple of the Mexican diet. Corn tortillas of many varieties -- white, yellow, blue -- figure into every meal of the day. While the country has some GMO corn as well, activists are concerned about expanding its reach.

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Health & Living

Researchers make embryonic stem cells from skin

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US researchers have reported a breakthrough in stem cell research, describing how they have turned human skin cells into embryonic stem cells for the first time.

The method described Wednesday by Oregon State University scientists in the journal *Cell*, would not likely be able to create human clones, said Shoukhrat Mitalipov, senior scientist at the Oregon National Primate Research Center.

But it is an important step in research because it does not require the use of embryos in creating the type of stem cell capable of transforming into any other type of cell in the body.

The technique involves transplanting an individual's DNA into an egg cell that has been stripped of genetic material, a variation of a method called somatic cell nuclear transfer.

"A thorough examination of the stem cells derived through this technique demonstrated their ability to convert just like normal embryonic stem cells, into several different cell types, including nerve cells, liver cells and heart cells," said Mitalipov.

He added that since the re-programmed cells use genetic material from the patient, there is no concern about transplant rejection.

"While there is much work to be done in developing safe and effective stem cell treatments, we believe this is a significant step forward in developing the cells that could be used in regenerative medicine," Mitalipov said.

Another advantage of this approach is that it does not use fertilized embryos to obtain stem cells, a technique that raises major ethical issues because the embryo is destroyed.

Since the birth of the sheep Dolly in 1996 in the United Kingdom, the first cloned animal, researchers have cloned some 20 species including goats and rabbits, but never monkeys or primates whose biologies and reproduction is more complex.

Years of research on monkey cells using the same technique have not successfully produced any monkey

clones.

Since the human cells used in the study appeared even more fragile, researchers said it was unlikely that clones could be made.

"While nuclear transfer breakthroughs often lead to a public discussion about the ethics of human cloning, this is not our focus, nor do we believe our findings might be used by others to advance the possibility of human reproductive cloning," they said.

Scientists hope that stem cell research will offer new pathways in the fight against Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries and blindness.

Nonetheless, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops warned that other researchers will use the new technique to try to clone people.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston said this way of making embryos will be taken up by people who want to produce cloned children as "copies" of other people.

"Whether used for one purpose or the other, human cloning treats human beings as products, manufactured to order to suit other people's wishes." He added, "A technical advance in human cloning is not progress for humanity but its opposite," he said in a statement.

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makes the body's metabolism speed up. The faster your metabolism the quicker your body burns that fat. Now the important part is just like a blender, if you put it at the

lowest speed with allot of food for only a few minutes it's going to have a hard time chopping up that food.

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If you put a small portion of water based foods like a watermelon, and put the blender at full speed it's going to turn that watermelon into water within a few seconds. That's how you want your body's metabolism, at full speed and only feeding it small portions of healthy easy to burn foods thru out the day that your body will turn into energy.

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Sci-Tech

Sun unleashes four potent solar flares

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Sun has unleashed four potent solar flares this week, marking the most intense activity yet this year and causing limited interruptions to high-frequency radio communications.

One of them was classified as an X3.2 flare, with X-class flares being the most intense type, the US space agency said.

"This is the strongest X-class flare of 2013 so far, surpassing in strength the two X-class flares that occurred earlier in the 24-hour period," NASA said of the flare that peaked at 0111 GMT Tuesday.

A fourth X-class flare peaked at 0148 GMT on Wednesday, NASA said. The latest flares began on May 13 and have sent off bursts of radiation from the Sun, known as coronal mass ejections (CMEs). The strongest traveled particularly fast, at a speed of approximately 1,400 miles (2,253 kilometers) per

second, NASA said.

The CMEs have so far not been directed at the Earth but may impact satellites.

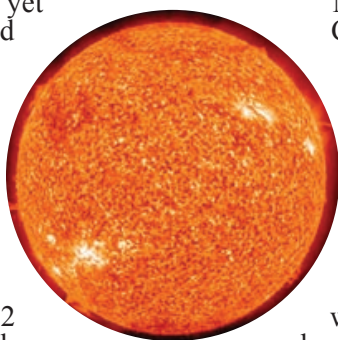
NASA said the CMEs would produce a merged cloud of solar material that "may give a glancing blow to the STEREO-B and Epoxi spacecraft," which are space-based observatories orbiting Earth to monitor solar storms and comets.

According to space weather experts at NOAA, more strong solar flares may be expected in the coming days.

Although CMEs send off potent radiation, Earth is protected by its magnetic field.

Solar activity can temporarily disrupt GPS signals and communications satellites, but most people will not notice any effects in their daily lives.

The first X-class flare of this solar cycle occurred in February 2011. The largest so far of the current cycle was documented as an X6.9 in August 2011.



Software makers getting face time with Google glasses



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Google Glass was a common sight Wednesday as software savants here shared visions of games, weather reports, news and more delivered to the Internet-linked eyewear.

Many of the 6,000 developers attending an annual Google I/O event in San Francisco sported Glass as part of an "explorer" program to tinker with creative applications for the eyewear, which cost \$1,500 a unit.

Uses ranged from practical tasks such as shopping or delivering local weather reports to sharing real time video streams of riding cable cars or playing augmented reality games in which the world is the board.

"I've been wearing them most days since I got them three weeks ago," said Jacob Hilker, a Massachusetts college student who works at on-

line financial transactions titan PayPal.

"Glass has been useful," he continued.

"Not so much when you are sitting at a desk, but when you are doing things like commuting to work; walking around the city on the weekend, or going out drinking you easily get text, emails, navigation... all that stuff."

And, he pointed out, one can tend to Internet searches, messages and more without ever having to put down a drink.

Like others wearing Glass, Hilker said that he takes a lot more photos. Glass lets wearers take pictures, record video or perform other tasks with touch controls or by speaking "Okay Glass" followed by a command.

"Just walking down the street, I take a picture and share it in about five seconds," Hilker said.

Glass connects to the Internet using Wi-Fi hot spots or, more typically, by being wirelessly tethered to mobile phones. Pictures or video are shared through the Google Plus social network.

Glass comes with attachable tinted lenses that give the devices the look of sunglasses, making gadgetry built into frames less noticeable.

Developers in the Explorer program dismissed talk of banning wearing Glass while driving or at bars.

Google co-founder and chief Larry Page depicted Glass as part of an ongoing effort to get computers "out of the way" so people can focus on lives enriched by what the Internet has to offer.

"We want to make sure we are building experiences that make people really happy," Page said while speaking about Glass during a keynote presentation.

"We are relying on you to make happy users," he told developers. "Ultimately, I think a lot of your experiences will move to Glass."

Google executive chairman Eric Schmidt said recently that it will take "a while" before consumer versions of Glass are available.

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1. Computer co. initials
4. Metric unit of weight
8. Bakery item
12. ___ jacket ('60s style)
13. "___ Man" (1984 film)
14. Diva's offering
15. Abby's sister
16. Original thought
17. Fathers
18. Annoy
20. Schedule abbr.
22. Connecticut university
23. Misstep
27. Scrooge's words
29. Drivers' references
32. Green or Mendes
33. Elizabethan ___
34. Casino town, for short
35. Tennis unit
36. Aunt or cousin (abbr.)
37. Formerly Persia
38. Discharge
39. Gusts
41. Postal ___
43. Santa's busiest mo.
45. Parisian farewells
48. Gear in a '50s

bachelor pad (hyph.)

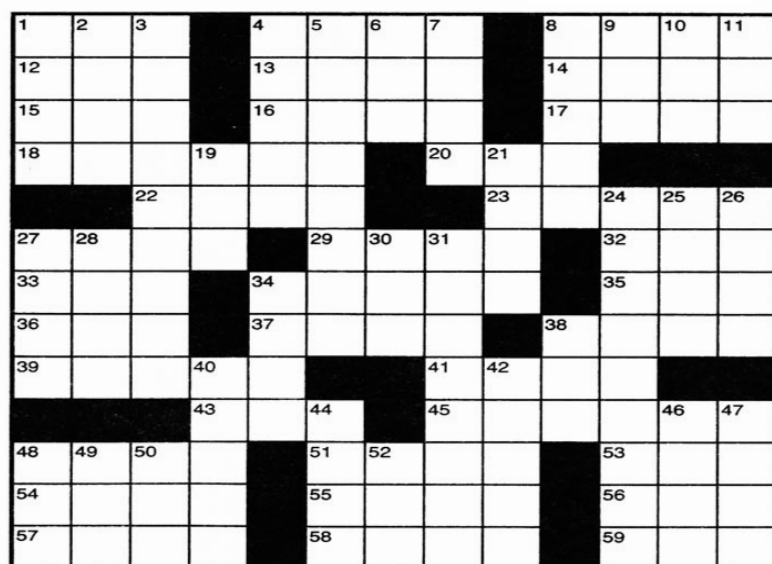
51. Actress Sommer
53. Compass dir.
54. Baldwin of "The Aviator"
55. Far down
56. Backstage prompt
57. Colorful salamander
58. Bridge position
59. Dorothy's aunt and others

DOWN

1. "___ Old Cowhand" (2 wds.)
2. Plague
3. "Let's Make a Deal" emcee
4. Summer cooker
5. Savior
6. Large primate
7. Protective ditch
8. Pilot's aid
9. "...man ___ mouse?" (2 wds.)
10. Cover
11. "Leaving ___ Vegas"
19. British thanks
21. "Porgy and ___"
24. Domicile
25. Eggs ___ easy
26. Velocity
27. Mass of ice
28. Community
30. Turkish title

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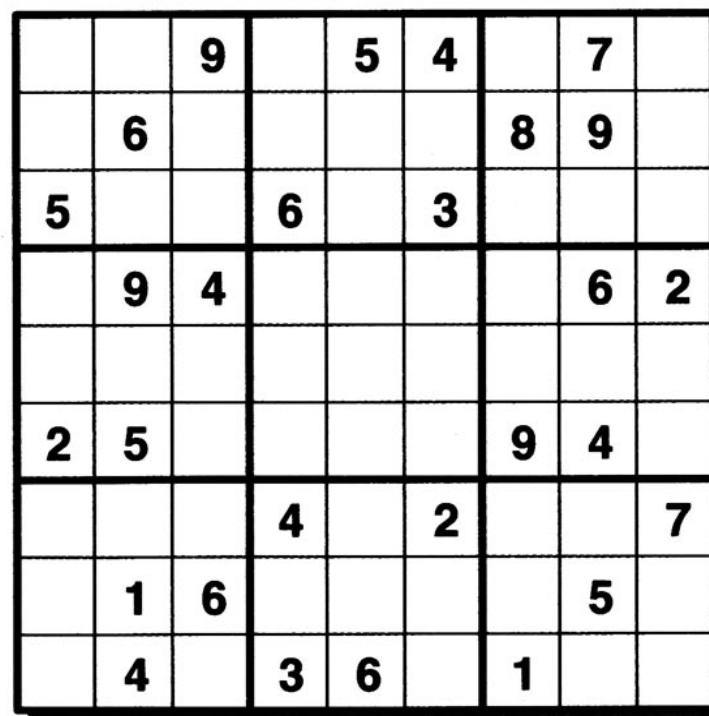
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7	5	2	8	4	6	9	1	3
4	3	9	2	1	7	5	8	6
8	7	6	9	8	4	2	1	5
9	1	5	6	7	2	4	3	8
2	9	4	1	3	5	7	6	8
1	2	7	6	9	8	4	5	3
5	6	8	7	2	1	3	9	4
3	4	2	5	7	8	6	2	1

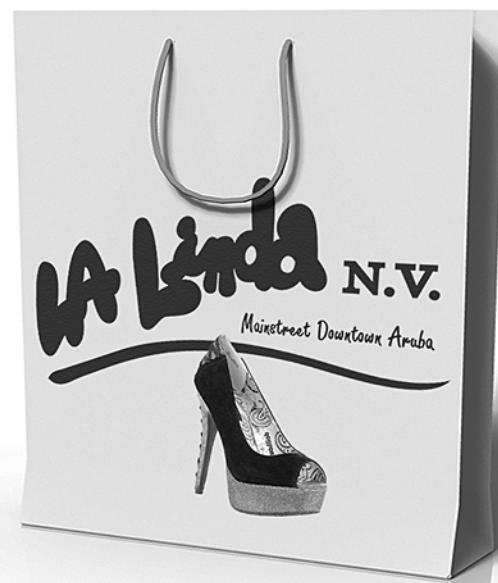
Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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FINANCE



ONNAING : AFP photo shows an employee assembling a Toyota Yaris car at an assembly line on May 16, 2013 at the plant of Japan's carmaker Toyota in Onnaing near Valenciennes, northern France. Toyota Yaris model, destined for the French market and for export to North America, is manufactured at Toyota site in Onnaing.

Study: Global luxury market set for slower growth

ROME (AFP) - The global luxury market will grow by a relatively modest 4-5 percent in turnover this year compared to the 10 percent expansion seen in 2012, a study released yesterday showed. Turnover

reached 212 billion euros (\$273 billion) in 2012.

The study found that wealthy tourists were seeking out new destinations like Dubai, South East Asia and Australia, with a particularly marked drop in the numbers of Japanese visitors to Europe.

It also said the growth in luxury watch purchases were down in the booming Chinese market and sales in cosmetics had fallen off in mature markets.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Aruba money supply rose

Continued from page 2

This growth was caused mainly by increases in the number of visitors from Latin America and North America of, respectively, 21.9 percent (+5,127 visitors) and 6.8 percent (+3,283 visitors). The Latin American market continued to expand, attributed mostly to an increase in visitors from Venezuela of 30.8 percent (+5,231 visitors). In the North American market, arrivals from the U.S.A. and Canada grew by, respectively, 4.4 percent (+1,906 visitors) and 25.9 percent (+1,377 visitors). The European market also noted an overall growth of 371 visitors (+6.0 percent) in December 2012, compared to December 2011. The largest surges were registered in arrivals from Sweden (+510 visitors) and Norway (+259 visitors). The number of aver-

age nights stayed in Aruba dropped marginally from 8.4 in December 2011 to 8.2 in December 2012.

The number of cruise visitors fell by 6,758 or 6.5 percent to 96,510 in the month of December 2012 compared to the same month of the previous year. The number of ship calls remained at 49 in December 2012, compared to the corresponding month a year earlier.

In December 2012, total tax revenue registered Afl. 90.0 million, an increase of Afl. 8.1 million or 9.9 percent, compared to the same month of the previous year. This rise was associated mostly with a growth in revenue from wage tax and income tax of, respectively, Afl. 7.3 million and Afl. 4.3 million. These surges were partially offset by lower revenue from transfer tax, import duties, and excises on tobacco of, respectively, Afl. 1.8 million, Afl. 1.3 million, and Afl. 1.1 million. Turnover tax (B.B.O.) also noted a minor decline in revenue of Afl. 0.1 million. Non-tax receipts recorded a fall of Afl. 0.5 million in December 2012, compared to the same month of last year.

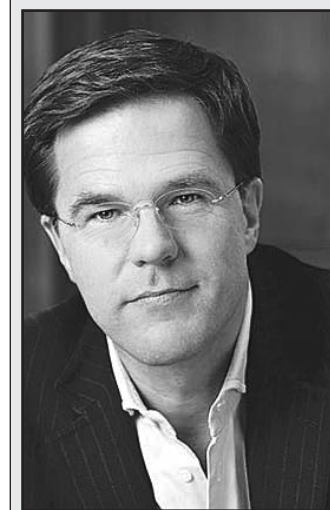
Dutch inflation rate drops but remains way above EU average

THE HAGUE -- The Netherlands' inflation rate has dropped from 3.2% in March to 2.8% in April, but remains well above the eurozone average of 1.2%, according to figures from European statistics office Eurostat.

The high Dutch inflation rate comes from government measures, such as the increases in insurance tax and value-added tax, says the Telegraaf.

The Netherlands shares third place with Britain in the Eurostat EU-wide inflation rankings. Only Estonia and Romania have higher rates.

Rutte to visit Dutch islands



THE HAGUE -- The Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte has called on Dutch entrepreneurs to go along with him when he comes to the Dutch Caribbean islands in July of this year. Netherlands put extra effort on increasing exports to and from the Caribbean overseas territories.

Prime Minister Rutte's visit begins on July 13. His visit will last about a week and he will be on every island.

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Britain	GBP	2.65	2.70	2.76
Switzerland	CHF	184.30	185.02	185.82
Netherlands	EUR	227.50	229.58	231.88
Sweden	SEK	25.74	26.46	27.26
Denmark	DKK	29.84	30.56	31.36
Norway	NOK	29.50	30.22	31.02
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KFC to go comes to Gaza... by tunnel



A man holds KFC food in the underground tunnel beneath the Gaza-Egypt border

GAZA CITY, Palestinian Territories (AFP) - Junk-food starved Gazans can now order Kentucky Fried Chicken to go thanks to a new smuggling service which brings takeout from Egypt via a network of underground tunnels.

It's not exactly "fast" -- taking several hours to arrive, with the Palestinian delivery company behind it charging hefty prices to cover the cost of fuel and transport.

"Last chance to order for the Thursday 6:00 pm delivery is Wednesday night," says the Yamama delivery firm on its Facebook page.

Yamama then orders the meals, about 30 on a typical run, from the KFC outlet in the Egyptian city of El-Arish, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) away.

"We place the order with the restaurant in El-Arish, then drive it in a car to the Egyptian side of Rafah," said Yamama director Khalil al-Ifranji.

"Someone takes it from there through the tunnels to (Gazan) Rafah. They then drive it to our headquarters (in Gaza City)."

Motorbikes then deliver the food, with the entire process taking three to four hours.

Fast food is just the latest trend for smugglers seeking to turn a buck by bringing in hard-to-get products to the Gaza Strip, which has been under an Israeli blockade since 2007.

Tight restrictions on Gazans entering Egypt mean those with a craving for chicken cooked to Colonel's Secret Recipe can't just pop over the border and pick up a bucket.

Instead, some residents seem quite happy to shell out 130 shekels (\$35/27 euros) for just 20 pieces of fried chicken -- double what it costs in El-Arish.

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Cannes is global shop window for fashion designers

PARIS (AFP) - Nicole Kidman and "Amelie" star Audrey Tautou kicked off 12-days of red carpet fashion at the opening of the Cannes Film Festival on Wednesday.

The prestigious Riviera movie meet provides both big fashion houses and up-and-coming designers with unparalleled opportunities to showcase their work before a global audience.

The race to dress the biggest names, who can attract maximum publicity, starts in mid-April straight after the official announcement of the films selected for Cannes.

Pictures of Hollywood A-lister Kidman, a member of this year's festival jury who wore a strapless embroidered Dior gown to Wednesday evening's opening ceremony, can be guaranteed to go round the world in minutes.



Audrey Tautou and Nicole Kidman

But other actresses in the spotlight this year such as "The Great Gatsby" star Carey Mulligan will also have been much sought after.

Some designers, however, have a policy of letting stars come to them.

At the fashion house of Lebanese couturier Elie Saab, a favourite with award ceremony regulars, staff never make the first move.

Last year Elie Saab dressed China's Fan Bingbing and France's Virginie Ledoyen.

"We don't contact them: they have to want to wear our robes," said Elie Saab's Emilie Legendre, adding that a

large number of fittings were done this year in Los Angeles, London and Paris.

Tautou, who shot to international fame in 2001 as the Pixie faced Montmartre waitress in "Amelie", is this year's maitresse de ceremonies at Cannes.

For Wednesday night's opening ceremony, she opted for young French designer Yiqing Yin who spent 400 hours creating her frosted mint organza and chiffon silk gown.

"It's an extraordinary gift" from Audrey Tautou, said Yiqing Yin, adding that having Tautou wear her dress represented "a unique exposure".

"Few actresses have confidence in young designers and turn instead to the big houses," she said.

Young Belgian designer Cedric Charlier provided dresses for director Mia Hansen-Love and actresses Marine Vauth and Nathalia Acevedo.

But between the couturier's fitting room and the red carpet anything can happen.

"They can change their mind at the last moment" and not wear the dresses, said a source at Cedric Charlier's.

It is for this reason that some designers including Herve L. Leroux never disclose the name of those expected to wear their dresses before they actually appear in them.

In the Elie Saab show room in a suite at Cannes' Hotel Martinez around 60 dresses are stored ready for a turn on the red carpet.

"We pay attention to the dresses that we lend, so that they are not the same style or the same colour," Legendre said.

"Sometimes we dress an actress at the last moment, for example, because she thinks her dress from another house doesn't suit her," she said.

The show room also means last minute alterations



Carey Mulligan

can be carried out.

Over the years, the number of photo opportunities at Cannes has mushroomed.

And at 12 days, the festival provides even greater opportunities to highlight a designer's work than the one-night only Oscars.

Cannes is "better than an advertisement", added Legendre.



Zhang Yuqi

5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48, with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,



Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of

fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

SPORTS

Nadal survives Gulbis test as Djokovic, Serena win



ROME (AFP) - Defending champion Rafael Nadal endured a three-set thriller before overcoming big-hitting Latvian qualifier Ernests Gulbis 1-6, 7-5, 6-4 on Thursday to reach the Rome Masters quarter-finals.

Gulbis, ranked 46th, and a winner in Rome in 2010 over Roger Federer on his way to the semi-finals, saved two match points in the third set, but finally went down when he sent a forehand wide to the massive relief of a dancing, celebrating Nadal.

The Spaniard now stands 6-0 against Gulbis as he bids for a seventh Rome title.

He will next face compatriot David Ferrer, who advanced in a walkover against Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber, who was suffering from vertigo.

"Being in the quarter-finals is fantastic. I'm more than pleased with what I've done since I returned (from his seven months off with knee problems)."

Top seed Novak Djokovic played without ankle pain in a routine 6-1, 6-4 defeat of Alexandr Dolgoplov.

Djokovic dispatched Dolgoplov in an hour, with five aces and 13 winners in a contest which began 45 minutes late due to morning rain.

The two-time Rome champion will next play Czech Tomas Berdych, a winner over South Africa's Kevin Anderson 7-5, 6-2.

Second seed Federer demolished Gilles Simon 6-1, 6-2 and set up a meeting with Jerzy Janowicz after the Pole knocked out Richard Gasquet, the ninth seed, 3-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4.

In the women's event, world number one Serena Williams comfortably made the quarter-finals with a 6-0, 6-1 mauling of Slovakia's 14th seed Dominika Cibulkova.

Williams, who has now won 21 successive matches, will face Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro for a spot in the semi-finals.

Second seed Maria Sharapova, winner of the last two editions, out-hit Sloane Stephens 6-2, 6-1 in just over

an hour.

Third-seeded Victoria Azarenka also went through when Ayumi Morita retired through injury in the second set.

Unseeded two-time champion Jelena Jankovic upset 2011 Roland Garros winner Li Na, the Chinese fifth seed, 7-6 (7/2), 7-5.



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Beckham calls time on stellar career

Continued from pg 16

"I knew every time I wore the Three Lions shirt, I was not only following in a long line of great players, I was also representing every fan that cared passionately about their country."

Beckham's global celebrity also turned him into a one-man marketing phenomenon with a glut of lucrative endorsements.

He has long-standing sponsorship deals with firms including Adidas, Armani and Samsung and is believed to share a £200 million (\$306 million, 237 million euros) fortune with his wife, Victoria, the pop star turned fashion designer and mother of his four children.

He added: "I wouldn't have achieved what I have done today without my family."

"I'm grateful for my parents' sacrifice, which made me realise my dreams. I owe everything to Victoria and the kids, who have given me the inspiration and support to play at the highest level for such a long period. I also want to thank (manager) Simon Fuller and his team for their continued support."

Outgoing Football Associ-

ation chairman David Bernstein described Beckham as "an iconic figure", while former United team-mate and close friend Gary Neville saluted his impact on English football.

"He had incredible stamina and energy. He was a joy to play with," said Neville.

"And when you think back on the way football has changed over the last 22 years, he has probably been the most influential player in that time out of England in terms of transforming football."

England manager Roy Hodgson said he hoped Beckham would remain in the game.

"I'm rather hoping we'll be able to keep him in football because we can really benefit from his experience, we can really benefit from his charisma and we certainly benefit from the magnificent past he has had as a football player," he said.

As one of Britain's most recognisable figures, Beckham also worked as an ambassador for last year's London Olympics and carried the Olympic flame to the opening ceremony.

He is due to play his final game for PSG at Lorient's Stade du Moustoir on May 26.

Indian paceman Sreesanth 'held for spot-fixing'

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Indian international fast bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth and two teammates have been arrested for spot-fixing in a domestic Twenty20 competition, a report said on Thursday.

Sreesanth, 30, was arrested by Delhi police in Mumbai along with fellow bowlers Ankeet Chavan and Ajit Chandila on charges of spot-fixing, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said.

The arrests were made at a hotel where the team was staying after a match on Wednesday night against the Mumbai Indians.

All of them play for the Rajasthan Royals and a statement from the team confirmed that three of their players had been called in for investigation over spot-fixing charges, without confirming their identities.

"We are completely taken in by surprise... we will fully co-operate with the authorities to ensure a thorough investigation," said the statement.

There was no immediate confirmation of the report from the police.

Sreesanth, who played the last of his 27 Tests against England two years ago, is no stranger to controversy, and was famously slapped by his teammate Harbhajan Singh during a match in 2008.

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Memphis finish off Thunder in five games

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (AFP) - The Memphis Grizzlies advanced to the NBA semi-finals for the first time in franchise history by beating the top seeded Oklahoma City Thunder 88-84 to take their playoff series in five games.

Zach Randolph finished with 28 points and grabbed 14 rebounds but missed two late free throws with the Grizzlies holding a two-point lead.

"We got a great win," Randolph said. "They came out blasting and we stood and fought. We kept fighting and



Marc Gasol celebrates
now we will get some rest and get ready for the next series."

Thunder superstar Kevin Durant had a chance to tie the game with the clock winding down but he shot long on an open 15-footer. That allowed Memphis' Tony Allen to seal the outcome by making his two free throws.

"We knew Kevin would get the ball. Luckily he missed the shot," Memphis guard Mike Conley said.

The Grizzlies will meet either the San Antonio Spurs or the Golden State Warriors for the right to go to the 2013 NBA finals. The Spurs lead that quarter-final series 3-2.

Heat close out Bulls to advance



MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James finished with 23 points and eight assists as the Miami Heat held on after blowing an 18-point lead to beat the Chicago Bulls 94-91 Wednesday and advance to the NBA semi-finals.

Dwyane Wade played through a nagging knee injury to finish with 18 points and six assists and Chris Bosh had 12 points and seven rebounds for the Heat, who won four straight games against the undermanned Bulls after dropping the opener in Miami.

"We knew right from the very beginning of this series that we would have to earn everything and that proved to be true," said Miami coach Erik Spoelstra.

The defending champion Heat will face either the Indiana Pacers or the New York Knicks in the semis. The Pacers lead that quarter-final series 3-1.

James also had seven rebounds for the Heat who reached their third straight Eastern Conference final series.

The injury-plagued Bulls had two chances in the final seconds to tie it, but Nate Robinson and Jimmy Butler both missed from beyond the arc.

Carlos Boozer finished with a game high 26 points and 14 rebounds while Robinson had 21 points and

Butler 19 for the Bulls, who played the entire series without Derrick Rose, Luol Deng and Kirk Hinrich.

The Bulls have been decimated by injuries. Derrick Rose hasn't played since he tore his ACL in the first playoff game last season.

Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau blamed the loss on the injuries.

"Right now health," he said when asked what the difference in the series was. "That's the biggest thing. But they are a great team and you have to give them credit.

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Derby winner Orb draws rail for Preakness



BALTIMORE, Maryland (AFP) - Kentucky Derby winner Orb drew the rail for Saturday's \$1 million Preakness Stakes and was made the even-money early favorite for the second jewel in US flat racing's Triple Crown.

Nine horses were entered for the 1 3/16-mile Preakness at Pimlico Race Course.

Joel Rosario, who won the \$10 million Dubai Cup aboard Animal Kingdom in March, will again be aboard

Orb.

Rosario piloted the colt to a 2 1/2-length victory over 34-1 longshot Golden Soul on a sloppy track at Churchill Downs on May 4.

The victory gives Orb a chance to become the first horse since Affirmed in 1978 to capture US flat racing's Triple Crown of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes.

Only 11 horses have completed the coveted treble.

"I wouldn't be telling the truth if I said, 'No,'" McGaughey said when asked if he thinks about winning the Triple Crown.

"I try to block it out, but if you're in this position, anybody would think about it. Of course, you get reminded of it quite often."

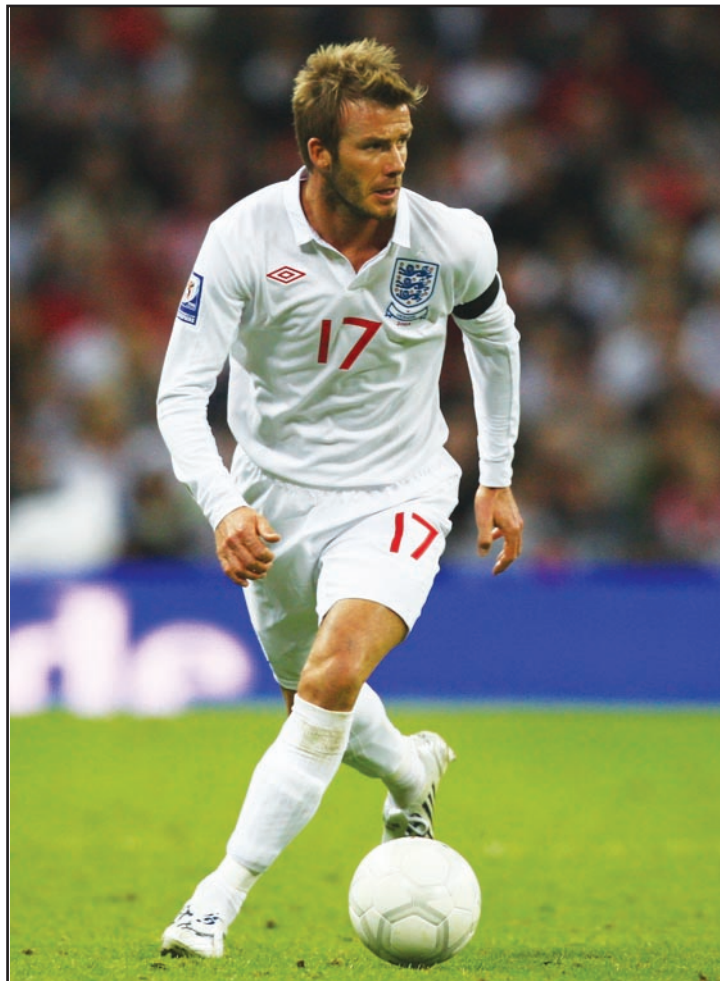
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Beckham calls time on stellar career



LONDON (AFP) - Football megastar David Beckham announced on Thursday that he is to retire after a glittering 20-year playing career in

which he became one of the most widely recognised figures in world sport.

The former England captain, 38, made the announce-

ment shortly after winning the Ligue 1 title with French giants Paris Saint-Germain, which made him the first Englishman to win league championships in four different countries.

He bows out from the game at the same time as his Manchester United mentor Alex Ferguson, who handed Beckham his professional debut in 1993 and thereby launched one of the most newsworthy careers in the history of the English game.

He went on to play for Real Madrid, Los Angeles Galaxy and AC Milan, as well as PSG, and won 115 caps for England in an unprecedented feat for an out-field player.

"I'm thankful to PSG for giving me the opportunity to continue but I feel now is the right time to finish my career, playing at the highest level," Beckham said.

"If you had told me as a young boy I would have played for and won trophies with my boyhood club, Manchester United, proudly captained and played for my country over one hundred times, and lined up for some of the biggest clubs in the world, I would have told you it was a fantasy.

"I'm fortunate to have realised those dreams."

Blessed with an extraordinarily accurate right foot, Beckham was renowned for his dead-ball prowess and his seemingly limitless reserves of stamina.

He won six league titles, two FA Cups and the 1999 Champions League with United, creating both injury-time goals as Ferguson's side stormed back to beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in the final, before joining Madrid in 2003, where he won the Spanish league title four years later.

Beckham moved to Los Angeles in 2007 and won two MLS Cup titles with the Galaxy, but he spent two loan spells at Milan and then returned to Europe in January this year, when he signed a short-term deal with PSG.

He is fondly remembered for his exploits in an England shirt, having captained his country for six years and played at three World Cups.

"To this day, one of my proudest achievements is captaining my country," he said.

Continued on pg 14



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